

*Y.S.*  
PATENT  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Tetsujiro KONDO et al.

Continuation of  
Serial No. : 08/959,051

Filed : Filed Concurrently Herewith

For : PICTURE ENCODING APPARATUS AND METHOD

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Official Action, please amend the above-identified Application as follows: